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SPORTS

Winchester Youth Baseball 12U all-stars drop heartbreaker to Milton in EMass state finals

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester Youth Baseball lost to Milton in the EMass state finals. COURTESY PHOTO

After closing out the last EMass pool play game with a 3-1 loss to Raynham at the Freetown / Lakeville youth baseball complex on July 11, th

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Winchester Cal Ripken 12U all-star team was ready for the final round, still sporting a sensational 8-1 overall state tournament record.

They then went on to defeat Arlington for the third time in this tournament after coming out on top in the state final opener, 7-1.

Altogether, they outscored the Junior Spy Ponders, 26-5 in three games. The win set the stage for the EMass state title game against the Milton Americans, who went through pool play in their grouping unscathed, winning four straight wins.

“We didn’t run out of gas; we just ran into two good teams, and lost,” said manager Chris Gannon. “We have been on the other side of these games before, so you just have to take the good with the bad.”

But Gannon had no complaints with the overall effort, and thinks this will only help them when the 12U World Series begins next month in Branson, Mo.

“Our kids battled hard in both those losses,” he said. “We were one hit away from winning both these games, but that’s baseball.

“It was still a good learning experience for both coaches and players alike, and we’re now focused on using that experience to get better and win the World Series,” Gannon added.

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In the final pool play game against Raynham, Winchester fell behind early after the Junior Trojans jumped out to a 2-0 lead. They then tacked on an insurance run in the fifth, before Winchester avoided the shutout of its own in the home half of the sixth. But it was too little, too la

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however, quickly put that loss behind them to get ready for the state final opener against Arlington.

Vincent Moran (6 hits, 3 walks, 3 runs, 2 earned, 3 strikeouts) pitched the first five innings against Raynham. Morgan Sweeney (1 hit, 2 walks) was on the mound for the local nine in the final frame.

Winchester managed only three hits in this game, all singles. Kellan Stachelski had two of them, while Tommy Vittiglio accounted for the other base hit.

But it didn't take the Winchester kids long to get back on track against aforementioned Arlington. They were able to score in every inning to secure that 7-1 victory.

Sweeney (2 hits, 1 walk, 1 earned run, 7 strikeouts) started the game on the hill. He went 3.1-innings to get the win, before being relieved by Pete Toner. Toner pitched the final 2.2-innings, and allowed only one hit, while whiffing three.

The offense banged out six hits, powered by Chris Fiore, whose two-run blast paced the attack. Fiore also walked with the bases loaded to account for his third RBI in this game. Charlie Statires collected two singles, and scored one run. Ayla Capone (1 run), Bryce Shaw (1 run) and Sweeney (1 walk, 1 run) each singled once.

The two best teams in EMass then hooked up to decide the state title, and the game lived up to its billing on Sunday afternoon, July 13.

Winchester scored the first run of the game in the third, and that lead almost held up until its Milton counterparts won the game with two in the home half of the sixth inning. They were that close from advanc[illegible] regionals in Rochester, N.H., but instead they have more time to rest up

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and work on a few things in practice before heading off to Branson for the World Series. Teams are scheduled to report to the Live Music Capital of the World on Aug. 6.

Callan Gannon (2 hits, 1 walk, 2 strikeouts) went the first four innings against Milton on the mound, before Toner (4 hits, 1 walk, 2 earned runs) took over in this hard-fought effort that just didn't go their way in the end.

The offense sprayed seven hits around the field, all singles, and the team was led by Shaw (1 walk, 1 RBI), Toner and Vittiglio with two apiece. Gannon was credited with the other single.

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Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

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It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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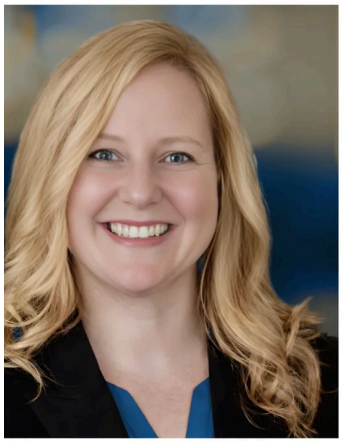

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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